December 26, 2024 - January 1, 2025 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Community Calendar

Sumpter Township Hall Will be closed for holiday

Sumpter Township Hall will be closed through Jan. 1 to mark the holiday season.

The treasurer's office, only, will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Dec. 30, for tax payments only.

The offices will resume regular hours Jan. 2.

7th Annual Curling Royale Tournament set in Romulus

The 7th Annual Curling Royal in "R" District is planned for 2 p.m. Jan.18 at Mary Ann Banks Park in Romulus.

Four-person teams can now complete the recommended pre-registration or register beginning at noon the day of the games.

Registration is $100 per team or $25 per individual player.

All proceeds will help fund the "Great Lakes Burn Camp for Kids." Checks should be made payable to Great Lakes Burn Camp.

Register at the Community Development Office in Romulus City Hall at 11111 Wayne Road or online at https://www.romulusgov.com/.../7th-Annual-Curling-Royale-132 or by calling (734) 942-7545.

This event is weather permitting. The backup date is Saturday, Jan. 25.

No experience is necessary for this event, and snacks and refreshments are available for purchase.

A special Happy Hour at Artisan Reserve is planned following the event.

Northville Community Awards Dinner tickets now on sale

Tickets for the annual Northville Community Annual Awards Dinner organized by the Northville Chamber of Commerce are now available. The event which recognized a variety of civic accomplishments including business excellence, volunteers of the year and the prestigious John Genitti Citizen of the Year award will be presented during the event.

The event is planned to begin with cocktails at 5 p.m. Feb. 6 at Genitti's Hole in the Wall with dinner scheduled for 6 p.m. For tickets, contact the chamber office. Award nominations are also being accepted.

Plymouth Ice Festival planned

Get ready to immerse yourself in a world of icy enchantment as the Plymouth Ice Festival 2025 is planned for Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and Feb. 2.

The annual event takes place throughout downtown Plymouth and features a park full of professionally carved ice sculptures along with exhibits throughout the business community. The festival includes live music, demonstrations, interactive exhibits, games and special festival food vendors.

The event is free although parking fees are collected by civic organizations.

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Proposed House bill could cost local communities

Taxpayers in local communities may be required to fund the regional transportation system as state legislators consider eliminating the "opt out" provision in the funding mechanism for the service.

Currently, 17 communities, including Canton Township, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township and Livonia, don't participate in or fund SMART, the county regional bus service, exercising the opt out provision. Members of the Michigan House of Representatives, however, voted 56-52 last week to advance a bill to the Senate that would end the ability for Wayne County communities to opt out of votes and participation in the regional public transit system.

House Bill 6088, sponsored by state Rep. Alabas Farhat, D-Dearborn, would require the communities that currently opt out from the SMART bus system to participate in a county-wide vote when the 1-mill question appears on the ballot for renewal in 2026.

If we're going to pay for public transportation, shouldn't we have a voice in determining how our tax dollars are spent?"

The 17 communities are unlikely to overcome the general support from the rest of the county in an election, making it likely that those communities — some of which have been opted out for nearly 40 years — would be required to pay the tax to support the transit service.

Several area leaders are critical of the proposal.

Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said Canton has opted out of SMART since the 1990s, saving residents millions in taxes.

While Graham-Hudak likes the idea of public transportation, she said the proposed system doesn't guarantee enough benefits for her community.

"I definitely support public transportation being available to all residents in Canton," she said. "But we need to make sure the millage revenue from Canton comes back here to meet our needs."

Canton Township operates Nankin Transit, a $500,000-per-year door-to-door service for seniors and people with disabilities. She noted that the 2016 Regional Transit Authority millage, which failed in Canton. included just one bus stop, in the southwestern corner of the township, which Canton residents felt was inadequate.

See Tax, page 2.

Strong foundation

Romulus group dedicated to supplementing first responders

First responders in Romulus were honored during the police department Employee Appreciation and Award Ceremony Dec. 6 at the Romulus Athletic Center.

The event honored exceptional public safety achievements, including the officer and civilian employees of the year and awarded commendations for exemplary performance. The event was sponsored in part by the Romulus Public Safety Foundation, a group dedicated to impactful contributions. Last year, the foundation provided the department with tactical medical response kits designed for the immediate treatment of gunshot wounds and other severe medical emergencies before the paramedic's arrival, possibly saving the life of a civilian or police officer.

Romulus Chief of Police Robert Pfannes, who has been with the department since 2020, expressed his gratitude to the foundation.

"The Foundation has helped us to invest in the officers' safety and effectiveness on the job and also to celebrate our team's achievements." The foundation "is an excellent way to supplement public safety efforts without relying on taxpayers. It shows our first responders that they have support from the community." Pfannes said.

Officer of the Year honors went to Romulus Police Cpl. Mark Salazar.

"Serving the City of Romulus is a privilege, and this award is a testament to the teamwork and dedication of everyone in the department. I'm deeply humbled to be part of such an outstanding team," Salazar, a four-year veteran of the department said. He previously served for 20 years at the Detroit Police Department.

Salazar was selected for this award for his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and impact within the community, officials said during the presentation. "During the past year, Salazar consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment to public safety, and going above and beyond his regular duties. Salazar's ability to handle challenging situations with integrity and compassion earned him the respect of his peers," offiicals said.

Romulus Police Cpl. Mark Salazar, holding award, was among the officers and first responders who received awards for their exemplary work during a ceremony earlier this month. Capt. Roger Salwa, at left, and Capt. Nicole Harris, congratulate Salazar, along with Police Chief Robert Pfannes, who praised the award-winner's performance.

Police Ofc. Jared Bundy was honored as "Rookie of the Year", Travis Rice for "Detective of the Year", Sgt. Andrew Carriger for "Command Officer of the Year", Courtney Rhodes for "Dispatcher of the Year", and Monique Talley for "Civilian Employee of the Year." Officials said they hope this is the first of an annual presentation honoring first responders for their continued efforts within the community.

The Romulus Public Safety Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing public safety by supporting local first responders through donations, resources, and community partnerships. For more information about or donations to the Romulus Public Safety Foundation, visit https://romuluspsf.square.site for donations or https://www.facebook.com/RomPSF.

Suspect in theft of ballet company trailer facing charges

A man accused of stealing a trailer full of Plymouth Ballet Company scenery and props will appear in court tomorrow for a hearing on the charges.

The performance trailer was stolen from the 8100 block of Ronda Drive in Canton Township on Nov. 17, according to police reports.

On November 17, 2024, the Plymouth Ballet Company had their trailer stolen during the overnight hours in the 8100 block of Ronda Drive in Canton. The trailer contained stage props intended for the "Nutcracker" ballet, which included performance from more than 80 children from the area.

A GoFundMe account generated nearly $18,000 allowing the group to replace items and continue the performances.

The Investigative Bureau of the Canton Police Department, working jointly with the Plymouth Township Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department and the Toledo (Ohio) Police Department, identified and arrested one suspect on Dec. 17. Brandon Keel, 20, of Toledo, Ohio, was arraigned last week in 35th District Court on one count of larceny of $20,000 or more, a 10-year felony and one count of receiving and concealing stolen property of $20,000 or more, also a 10-year felony.

Police said the trailer has not been located although one stage prop has been recovered.

Keel was also arraigned on the same charges for an additional trailer theft that occurred recently in Plymouth Township.

35th District Court Judge James Plakas set Keel's bond at $20,000 cash, with a mandatory tether, on the Canton charges and the same bond and conditions for the Plymouth Township charges.

Keel is scheduled to appear at 35th District Court again tomorrow for a hearing on the charges.

Good Scout

Candidate for Eagle rank builds Little Libraries

Eagle Scout Nathan Makins, along with his 10-year-old cousin Harper Hughes, receives a proclamation from Canton Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak for building three Little Free Libraries for the Canton community. (Photo courtesy of Canton Township).

Visitors to two Canton Township parks and the Summit on the Park community recreation center will notice the addition of Little Free Libraries at the sites, thanks to the hard work of Nathan Makins, a 17-year-old Eagle Scout of Troop 1537 of Plymouth.

As a Plymouth High School senior, Makins undertook the challenge as part of his final Eagle Scout project, which included researching and applying for universally accessible blueprint and design plans, fundraising for supplies and book donations, and constructing these tiny structures out of recycled materials.

Makin's outdoor Little Free Libraries, which were built using weather-resistant materials, can be found in Barchester Park, located between Hanford and Barchester Roads, and on the north side of Heritage Park, behind the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

His final library is housed inside the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. This indoor structure was also placed on wheels, making it a 'rolling' library that can be relocated throughout the Summit on the Park at various high-traffic areas.

This indoor unit also features a wooden flower box at the base that will also hold puzzles and games available to use and share. This extra feature is adorned with artwork provided by Harper Hughes, Makins' 10-year-old cousin, which includes illustrations relating to four well-known books, each representing one of the four seasons.

"The entire project kept me busy for the last few months," Makins said. "This included planning, fundraising, building, and eventually placing the libraries." Makins worked closely with Summit staff, as well as his troop, to ensure the appropriate sites were chosen and correct materials used.

"It never was stressful working with the Summit staff on developing the plan for these three Little Free Libraries," Makins said. "Everyone at the Summit was really supportive and encouraging."

"Nathan has been an absolute delight to work with," said Beth Myers, Summit on the Park special events coordinator. "Already, we've seen our patrons checking out the new installation, and it's great to see how Nathan's Eagle Scout project is removing barriers, encouraging reading, and making a difference in our community."

Makins thanked his fellow Scout Troop, parents, friends, and relatives – including his cousin Harper Hughes and the Williams Family - for their help in supplying materials and funds to make this project a reality.

Not only will these official Little Free Libraries offer individuals a chance to "Take a Book, Share a Book," which is the motto of this worldwide book-sharing movement, but their sanctioned ADA design will enable equal access to their contents to all individuals, including those with physical challenges and smaller children.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book exchange boxes. For more information on Little Free Libraries, visit littlefreelibrary.org.

For more information about the new addition of Little Free Libraries in the Canton community, visit www.summitonthepark.org or call (734) 394-5460.

Tax

From page 1

"We can't just say, 'Okay, we're putting a millage on you, and sorry, you don't really get to use anything,'" she said, noting the township needs flexible, community-focused solutions, such as expanding door-to-door services like Nankin Transit.

Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo echoed concerns about winning over voters in opt-out communities.

"Northville Township voters are smart," he said. "There has to be something in it for them to support a millage. Otherwise, they'll vote no."

State Sen. Dayna Polehanki also has doubts about the proposed bill.

"According to the news, the new law says Canton's tax dollars will go to an unelected, countywide 'authority,' which will decide where all public transportation dollars are spent. Where will they choose to spend Canton's money? Canton? I doubt it. I'm curious to hear everyone's thoughts," Polehanki posted on social media.

"Shouldn't the new law give some form of local control and say that Canton's tax dollars will be spent on public transportation in Canton? If we're going to pay for public transportation, shouldn't we have a voice in determining how our tax dollars are spent?" Polehanki said.

The bill will now go to the state Senate for consideration.

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP, MI
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Director of Water, Sewer & Public Works

Sumpter Township is currently accepting resumes for this position, reporting to the Township Manager and Board of Trustees. This is a full-time position with a base salary pay range of $85,000 - $92,000 (based on qualifications & experience) and benefits package. Please visit our website at "www.sumptertwp.org", COMMUNITY/JOB OPENINGS for further information on the position description, duties and requirements.

Please submit your resume and cover letter in confidence to ATTN: Township Manager, 23480 Sumpter Rd, Belleville, MI 48111.

Sumpter Township is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

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THE EAGLE

CITY OF ROMULUS INVITATION TO BID
ITB 24/25-06 Two (2) Year Concrete Pricing

The City of Romulus Department of Public Works is seeking bids from qualified companies to establish a contract for delivered pricing for concrete on an as needed basis for calendar years 2025 and 2026.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit a bid must use the forms provided by the City. Official bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct (http://www.mitn.info/). Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. Copies of documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies.
(2) Questions must be emailed to Purchasing@romulusgov.com and received no later than 12:00 PM Local Time, January 9, 2025.
(3) Clarifications, modifications, or amendments may be made to this solicitation at the discretion of the City. Any and all addenda issued by the City will be posted on the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct. All interested parties are instructed to view the MITN website regularly for any issued addenda. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain all issued addenda and acknowledge receipt of said addenda by including a printed copy of each addendum as part of the required documents for this solicitation and to list the addendum and sign and date the "Acknowledgment of Receipt Addenda Form: supplied in the bid documents.
(4) A total of two copies (one marked "Original" and one marked "Copy") of the bid must be submitted together in one sealed package/envelope and returned to the ***City Clerk's Office*** no later than 2:00 P.M., **Thursday, 1/16/2025.** Bids should be addressed using the bid package label provided in the solicitation documents or submitted electronically on the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct.
(5) At approximately 3:00 p.m., local time **1/16/2025**, all timely received bids will be publically opened and read.
(6) The City reserves the right to postpone the opening without notification and also reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in bids received and to award the bid in whole or in part. Ultimately, a contract may be awarded to the lowest most responsive and responsible company, as determined in the sole discretion of the City of Romulus or otherwise in a manner deemed by the City to be in its own best interest.
(7) The successful Bidder will be required to submit proof of all bonds and insurance required by the solicitation documents and copies of all required endorsements.
(8) For additional information contact Christina Parker, City of Romulus, Purchasing Director by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Purchasing@romulusgov.com .
(9) The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

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7th Annual
"Curling Royale"
in
"R" District

Mary Ann Banks Park
37200 Goddard Road, Romulus, MI 48174
Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 2:00 pm
TEAM registration $25 per person
Registration begins at 12:00 pm

Great Lakes BURN CAMP

*ALL PROCEEDS of this fun event will help fund the "Great Lakes Burn Camp for Kids"
(Please make checks payable to: Great Lakes Burn Camp.)
(If you are unable to participate, donations are always welcome.)

4-Person Teams - $100 per team /$25 per person
Pre-registration is recommended. This event is popular and fills up quickly!
Sign-up your team in advance by visiting the QR code or calling (734) 942-7545.
NO experience necessary! Snacks and refreshments available for purchase.
(This event is weather permitting. (ice freezing) The backup date is the next Saturday: January 25th)

*Join us for a special Happy Hour at Artisan Reserve following the event